



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM

FIRE SAFETY NEWS



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Upcoming Board meetings

Plumbing Board Meeting:
May 10, 2016 9AM

Access Board Meeting:
May 23, 2016 1:30PM

Electrical Board Meeting:
June 7, 2016 9AM

Elevator Board Meeting:
June 14, 2016 9AM

~BOARD DEADLINE REMINDER~

If you have a board agenda item, it needs to be received at the Central Office no later than **2 weeks** prior to the board meeting. **For All Meetings.**

May 2016

Directors Message

Michael Desrochers

The Division of Fire Safety has issued several press releases urging all Vermonters to make sure they have properly installed and maintained smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their homes. This year we have had 5 fire related deaths and 2 accidental carbon monoxide poisonings. There has also been a number of structure fires where working smoke alarms have been contributed to saving lives. It is very important to get the word out when we have a success story contributed to fire service training, fire protection features such as, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, and fire walls.

Staff Changes: In February 2016, Eileen and Dan Zimmer retired from the Fire Academy after many years of loyal and dedicated service. The Division also lost two electrical inspectors Wayne Dunlap –32 years of service and Andy Rea who worked for us several years. Since February, we have been actively recruiting and filling these positions. Eileen's position is actively being filled and Mike Skaza was promoted taking over Dan's former position at the Academy. Bill Jones was promoted and he took over Mike Skaza's former position. We are in the process of re-classifying Bill Jones former position and hope to get this posted in the near future. We hope to be back to 7 full time staff by early summer.

There has been a lot of press coverage surrounding water contamination due to PFOA and PFOS or fluorotelomers. These chemicals can be found in fire fighter foam formulations as a surfactant. Most if not all foam manufactures have stopped manufacturing foam containing these chemicals. The fire academy uses biodegradable training foam. The Agency of Natural Resources in the course of conducting investigations tested private water wells adjacent to the fire academy in Pittsford. Last week we were notified the test results were negative.

Robert Patterson has been hired as a project manager to facilitate the adoption of the 2015 Building Code, 2015 Life Safety Code, and 2015 NFPA 1. The adoption process is time consuming and involves reviewing several hundred codes and standards. The division encourages active participation by all stake holder groups including the fire service. We are close to completing the draft rules at which time we will start taking comments.

The academy submitted a grant again this year to replace the existing burn building at the academy in Pittsford. The exiting burn building is old and is under a special structural engineering assessment program. Once we are notified of the award status we will make an announcement.



Don't Wait **CHECK** the date!



**REPLACE SMOKE
ALARMS EVERY
10 YEARS**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 9-15, 2016**

firepreventionweek.org

VERMONT FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT UPDATE

Each year people across the United States die from fires and from exposure to carbon monoxide. Vermont is not immune to these tragic losses. This year Vermont has experienced 5 deaths due to fire and 2 deaths due to exposure to carbon monoxide.

On February 27, 2016, a couple perished in a fire in Morgan Vermont.

On March 7, 2016, two sisters perished in a fire in Marlboro, Vermont.

On March 24th, a couple perished from exposure to carbon monoxide in Jericho, Vermont.

On April 13, 2016, an elderly woman perished in a fire in Middletown Springs, Vermont.

The Vermont Fire Investigation Unit was unable to determine if the residences involved in the fires had working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. No carbon monoxide alarms were found in the home of the couple that perished from carbon monoxide poisoning. The two sisters that perished had exited the home but re-entered to save their pets. Never **re-enter** a burning building once you have safely exited the building. Most people that re-enter a burning building perish.

The Vermont Division of Fire Safety cannot stress the importance enough in making sure that your home has working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to protect you and your family. It is equally important to change your batteries at least every 6 months. Also, if your smoke alarms are more than 10 years old, they must be replaced. If your carbon monoxide alarms are more than 7 years old, they must be replaced.

If you have any question in regards to the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, please visit our web site at www.firesafety.vermont.gov.

ESFI Addresses Common Home and Workplace Electrical Hazards during National Electrical Safety Month

Campaign features third edition of Electrical Safety Illustrated, launch of online training suite

May is National Electrical Safety Month and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is launching its annual effort to help reduce electrically-related fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss. This year's campaign features the third edition of its National Electrical Safety Month publication, *Electrical Safety Illustrated*. The issue, titled "At Home and at Work: Make Electrical Safety Everyone's Responsibility," addresses common electrical hazards both at home and on the job.

"Electricity is unforgiving, and it is important to be aware of hazards in order to correct them before a serious situation can result," said ESFI President Brett Brenner. "This year's resources highlight important home electrical safety measures as well as procedures that safeguard employees who work with electricity."



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates 47,700 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments each year involve some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition. These fires result in 418 civilian deaths, 1,570 civilian injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage. In the workplace, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration estimates there are approximately 187 electrical-related fatalities a year. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), each workplace death costs the U.S. economy \$5 million. May is National Electrical Safety Month Get a head start by checking out our 2016 campaign resources.

[For ESFI's complete collection of National Electrical Safety Month resources and for information on using them in your community, visit www.esfi.org.](http://www.esfi.org)

VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES



Todd Cosgrove, Chief

Is Your Department Ready?

Your pager goes off and you are called to a vehicle crash with HAZMAT involved, or a report of a strange odor and people sick, or a carbon monoxide detector sounding or an unknown purple liquid running down the street. Are you ready to begin managing this incident safely?

The first step in successful management of HAZMAT events in your community is insuring all first responders have the appropriate level of training. In addition to training all the first responder organizations: fire, police and EMS should meet to establish communications plans, areas of responsibility and to identify areas of concern and perform necessary planning. Planning should also include any other groups that might be affected such as schools, local government and nearby medical facilities.

When the incident occurs the fire department should consider the following:

- ☐ Approach from the upwind upgrade side if possible
- ☐ Has an Incident Command System been established?
- ☐ Is the Command Post in a safe area?
- ☐ Is there an immediate life safety concern?
- ☐ Establish control zones
- ☐ How many victims are there?
- ☐ Is EMS on scene and do we have adequate EMS assets?
- ☐ Is there a need to evacuate or shelter in place
- ☐ Do I need 'emergency' decontamination
- ☐ Can we identify the product?
- ☐ Shipping papers
- ☐ Placards
- ☐ Shape of container
- ☐ Description of product from witnesses or victims
- ☐ Do we need assistance from the State HAZMAT Team -1800-641-5005
- ☐ Is the product moving? Can we contain it?
- ☐ Do we have the training and equipment?
- ☐ Where will it go if we do not stop it?
- ☐ Do I need Town Highway to bring resources?
- ☐ Road blocks
- ☐ Sand
- ☐ Heavy equipment
- ☐ Does electricity need to be cut? (When flammable vapors are present)

It is important to note that if you need assistance from the HAZMAT Team you should use the HAZMAT Hotline - 1-800-641-5005.

Assistance ranges from a consultation with a Crew Chief to a full team response depending on the need.

The HOTLINE is the way to get help in an emergency! One last reminder: Any spill should be reported through the hotline!

If you have any non-emergency HAZMAT questions or suggestions please contact me. 802-479-7586

VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES



Todd Cosgrove, Chief

Vermont Community Right-to-Know and EPCRA Program TIER II Reporting

Reporting Requirements for Hazardous Materials or Pesticides in the Workplace for Calendar Year 2015

Vermont's Community Right-To-Know Program, 20 VSA Chapter 1, Vermont's Rules and Regulations dated October, 1995, and the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) which is a part of **42 USC Chapter 116**, require that certain hazardous materials must be reported annually by **March 1** for the preceding calendar year.

The **Vermont State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)** requests that facilities submit Tier II reports by using the EPA **Tier2Submit** software program. EPA provides this software application at no charge. **Tier2Submit** generates electronic versions of the TIER II form. If facilities do not have access to download Tier2Submit, they may continue to report using the hard copy Tier II form. Tier2Submit can be downloaded at <http://www.epa.gov/epcra/tier2-submit-software>.

- The Federal Tier II Form has changed and consists of more inventory ranges
- Facilities include public, private, non-profit, rail, petroleum, and agriculture based businesses
- Please note that if you are using the Tier2Submit program, only the current version is acceptable.
- A separate Tier Two form must be submitted for each different geographic facility site.
- The Tier II Facility Address needs to be the E911 address.
- Facility Latitude and Longitude coordinates are required on the Tier II form.
- Include the transportation routes for the chemicals you receive or ship.
- See FEE CHART in the instructions for the fee structure for calendar year 2015 reporting.
- Email Address is todd.cosgrove@vermont.gov

Tier II data, a **Safety Data Sheet (SDS)** for each reported hazardous material if required, and the **appropriate fee**, payable to "**Department of Public Safety – HSF**", must be submitted by **March 1** of each year to the following:

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) - (Original and Fees) - Mail to the address located on letterhead or email to address todd.cosgrove@vermont.gov.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) - (Copy) - A listing of the LEPC addresses is available at <http://vem.vermont.gov/programs/lepc>. Check with the LEPC to see whether they prefer an electronic file or paper copy.

3. Local Responding Fire Department - (Copy)

If you have any questions on the program, would like a copy of the regulations, or require assistance in completing the **TIER II** form or using Tier2Submit, please contact the **Community Right-To-Know Program** at **800.640.2106 (Attention – EPCRA Compliance)**, email todd.cosgrove@vermont.gov or visit the **EPCRA Compliance website** at <http://vem.vermont.gov/programs/epcra> .

Calibrating and Testing of the Multi Gas Meter

I have received numerous inquiries in regards to calibrating and testing of portable multi gas meter. This article is to state the position of the Vermont State Hazardous Materials Team in response to these inquiries.

Introduction

The multi gas meter is designed to alert workers to toxic gases, as well as oxygen-deficient and combustible atmospheres that may exist in their workplace environments, such as hazardous materials incidents, permit-required confined spaces, manholes, and other enclosed spaces. Several OSHA standards require the use of gas monitors. See paragraph (c) (5) (ii) (C) of **29 CFR 1910.146** (Permit-required confined spaces); paragraph (c) (6) of **29 CFR 1910.120** (Hazardous waste operations and emergency response); and section 5 (Entry into bins, silos, and tanks) of Appendix A of **29 CFR 1910.272** (Grain handling facilities). OSHA recommends developing standard procedures for calibrating and using multi gas meter's that include documentation to verify the proper maintenance and calibration of the instruments.

Responder's use a multi meter to detect the presence and concentration of toxic and combustible gases, as well as oxygen deficiency or oxygen enrichment (which is a fire and explosion hazard). Responder's must not rely solely on their sense of smell to alert them to these hazards.

The best way to verify that a multi gas meter detects gas reliably is to test it with a known concentration of gas. This procedure will verify whether the sensors in the instrument respond accurately and whether the alarms function properly.

Calibration Test:

"Calibration" is completed when sensors are installed new or the individual sensor is not within the recommended range of the calibration gas being used for a Field (Bump) test. This resets the sensor to the known concentration of the calibration gas, thereby resetting the sensor to provide reliable readings. Responders must follow the manufacturer's guidelines for proper calibration.

It is the Hazmat Team's position that this be completed in an area, free of vehicle exhaust or areas where fuels or chemicals are stored, to ensure a clean environment for this to be completed. The other important factor is to ensure proper warm up of the meter prior to performing the calibration, in order to ensure the sensors are ready.

Field (Bump Test, sometimes referred to as a "confidence test"):

"Field (Bump Test)" is a qualitative function check in which a calibration gas is passed over the sensor(s) at a concentration and exposure time sufficient to activate all alarm settings. The purpose of this check is to confirm that gas can get to the sensor(s) and that all the instrument's alarms are functional. The Field (Bump Test) check does not provide a measure of the instrument's accuracy, but verifies that the readings are within the range shown on the Calibration gas cylinder. When performing a bump test, the calibration gas concentration should trigger the multi gas meter alarm(s).

It is again the Hazmat Team's position that this be completed in an area, free of vehicle exhaust (to include not being completed inside responding apparatus) or areas where fuels or chemicals are stored, to ensure a clean environment for this to be completed. Again, the other important factor is to ensure proper warm up of the meter prior to performing the calibration, in order to ensure the sensors are ready.

Record Keeping:

Responders should keep calibration records for the life of each instrument. This record shows proof of that the Field (Bump Test) has been performed prior and following use at an incident, showing due diligence to ensure the meter is performing properly. This record also should include all maintenance performed on the multi gas meter and enables operators to quickly identify a multi gas meter that has a history of excessive maintenance or repair, or is prone to erratic readings, to determine when a sensor(s) or the multi gas meter is in need replacement.

Conclusion

Many emergency incidents have a risk of injury, illness, or death from respiratory hazards such as oxygen deficiency and the combustible or toxic gases. The multi gas meter exist to minimize such risks. Properly verifying the function and accuracy of instruments before each day's or incident's use will help to ensure that each responder goes home safely at the conclusion of their shift or the emergency incident.

Respectfully,

Todd J. Cosgrove

Cooking Fires Remain A Serious Hazard

The US Fire Administration recently issued data on national fire trends from 2002 to 2011 which contain some heartening news for fire safety professionals. In this 10 year period, the number of fires dropped nearly 20%, while overall fire deaths dropped 20.6%. However, the number of reported injuries dropped a mere 5%, while overall fire loss in dollars fell only 4%- fewer fires, but nearly the same number of injuries and overall dollar loss.



One of the factors that may help to explain this contradiction is that the major cause of residential fires is cooking, while the main causes of fatal fires are cooking and smoking. These human activity-related fires often place a person near the fire as it develops. In fact, the major cause of residential fires were cooking related, making up nearly 50% of all residential fires.

A recent fire in Hartford, Vermont occurred when an adult male was cooking with oil that ignited. (Insert #3) This person was seriously injured while attempting to move the burning pot of oil away from the stove. (Insert #15) Fire extended to the cabinets and ceiling, burning into the attic space, and causing extensive damage to the building. The door to the unit of origin was very effective in preventing spread to adjacent units (Insert 18). The panel type door to the water heater closet within the unit of origin showed typical fire damage, losing it's top panels completely.



The devastating nature of residential fires can be glimpsed in the damage to the kitchen area of this residential fire (Insert # 30). While all four units in this building were equipped with AC/DC smoke alarms, they did not play a role in the outcome of this fire.

Submitted By, Bruce Martin,
Regional Manager, Springfield Office



Tips for Safe Debris Burning

- **Comply with Local Regulations:**

Contact your local fire department in advance to confirm that burning is allowed and to find out whether a permit is required to burn debris.

- **Check the Weather Forecast**

Weather fluctuations, such as sudden gusts of wind, could make debris burning spark a wildfire. Call your local fire department the day you plan to burn debris to finalize that the weather is safe enough to burn.

- **Choose a Safe Burning Site**

A safe site will be far away from power lines, overhanging limbs, buildings, automobiles, and equipment. It will have vertical clearance at least three times the height of the pile, as heat from the fire extends far past the actual flames that you see. It will have horizontal clearance twice the height of the debris pile.

- **Prepare the Site Correctly:**

The ground around the burn site should be surrounded by gravel or mineral soil (dirt) for at least ten feet in all directions. Keep the surrounding area watered down during the burn.

- **If using a Burn Barrel, Make Sure it is Equipped with the Proper Features**

Burn Barrels must be made of all-metal construction in good condition (no rust on the sides or bottom) and properly ventilated with three evenly-spaced, three-inch square vents spaced evenly around the rim near ground level. Each vent must be backed by a metal screen. A Burn Barrel must have a metal top screen with mesh size of one-fourth inch or finer to keep sparks from escaping and potentially sparking a wildfire. When burning, layer the different types of debris and stir often. Be careful of sparks escaping the barrel when you stir it.

- **Remain With your Fire**

Stay with your fire until it is completely out. To ensure the fire has been completely extinguished, drown the fire with water, turn over the ashes with a shovel and drown it again. Repeat several times. Check the burn area regularly over the next several days and up to several weeks following the burn, especially if the weather is warm, dry, and windy.

- **Keep it Legal**

It is illegal to burn plastic, tires, and most other waste products not from a tree or shrub.

Equipment Fire and Use Safety



Today most equipment requires the use of a spark arrestor. A spark arrestor is a mechanical device that traps or destroys hot exhaust particles that have been released from an internal combustion engine.

A spark arrestor works by destroying carbon particles that are greater than .023 inches in diameter. The most commonly used spark arrestor traps carbon particles in the exhaust system. Then by screening the larger carbon particles out of the exhaust, the heavier particles are thrown against the walls of the arrestor and into a trap.

Spark arrestors can be divided into two categories: multiposition small engine (MSE) and general purpose (GP). MSE's are designed for handheld equipment such as chain saws, blowers etc. GP's are designed for an engine that remains in a single position for tractors, motorcycles, etc.

While spark arrestors are not 100% effective, they GREATLY reduce the risk of starting a wildfire.

- Gasoline and Diesel fuels should be stored in an approved container.
- ☐ Never fill a piece of equipment when it is hot.
- ☐ Make sure you have an approved fire extinguisher available when fueling equipment.
- ☐ Keep kids and animals away from equipment during the fill process and during use.
- ☐ Do not use equipment without the proper safety devices, (seat belts, roll protection, hard hat, eye protection, hearing protection, etc.).
- ☐ Do not allow kids to ride or operate equipment without proper training and equipment.

House Safety



Wildland-urban interface fires tend to be more damaging than urban structural fires, and behave differently from structural fires. The wildland-urban interface is the area where homes and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped forests, grasslands, or other natural areas.

People who live in these areas often forget or disregard the wildland fire cycles and dangers. Homes and other structures are built and maintained in a manner that leaves them and their occupants vulnerable. Thus, fire becomes a significant threat to both humans and natural resources.

Charcoal briquettes and ash from woodstoves/fireplaces also can start wildfires. When disposing of briquettes and ash outside, drown the charcoal and ash with lots of water; stir them, and soak again. Be sure they are out cold!

Sparks from lawnmowers and power equipment DO start wildfires. Be careful on hot, dry days, and be sure to get your equipment checked regularly.

Proper car etiquette: Be sure chains and other metal parts aren't dragging from your vehicle - they throw sparks. Check your tire pressure - driving on an exposed wheel rim can cause sparks. Be careful driving through or parking on dry grass. Hot exhaust pipes can start the grass on fire. Never let your brake pads wear too thin; metal on metal makes sparks.

If you are going to smoke and it is permitted outdoors, safe practices require at least a 3-foot clearing around the smoker. Grind out your cigarette, cigar, or pipe tobacco in the dirt. Never grind it on a stump or log. Never throw it away into the brush or leaves. It is unsafe to smoke while walking or riding a horse or trail bike because you never know where the ash will land. Use your ashtray while in your car.

Creating a 30 foot zone of fire-resistant space around your home will help prevent fires from starting near or spreading to your home. In addition, consider using fire resistant plants and landscaping that may help to protect your house from a wildfire. For more tips on how to better protect your home visit <http://www.firewise.org>.

Spring is upon us

Mud season is here but soon enough things will dry out and people will be cleaning up their property, grilling in the backyard, and enjoying the outside. With these common tasks we need to remind ourselves about some basic safety tips, as a reminder here is little history about our friend Smokey the Bear.



HISTORY

The guardian of our forest has been a part of the American scene for so many years it is hard for most of us to remember when he first appeared. Dressed in a ranger's hat, belted blue jeans and carrying a shovel, he has been the recognized wildfire prevention symbol since 1944. Today, Smokey Bear is a highly recognized advertising symbol and is protected by Federal law (PL 82-359, as amended by PL 92-318). He even has his own private zip code 20252.

To understand how Smokey Bear became associated with wildfire prevention, we must go back to World War II. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor. The following spring, in 1942, a Japanese submarine surfaced near the coast of Southern California and fired a salvo of shells that exploded on an oil field near Santa Barbara, very close to the Los Padres National Forest.

Americans throughout the country were shocked by the news the war had now been brought directly to the American mainland. There was also fear that enemy incendiary shells exploding in the timber stands along the Pacific Coast could easily set off numerous raging forest fires in addition to those already being caused by people. Protection of these forests from uncontrolled fire became a matter of national importance, and a new idea was born. If people could be urged to be more careful, perhaps some of the fires could be prevented.

Forest fires caused by people were nothing new. For many years, the Nation had known that forest fires presented a serious threat. As early as 1902, there was a standard General Land Office forest fire warning poster that gave some guidelines for keeping fires under control. In 1939, a poster

showing a forest ranger who looked like Uncle Sam pointing to a raging forest fire stated "Your Forest-Your Fault-Your Loss."

Statistics showed that nine out of ten of the fires were person-caused and, thus, preventable. With this in mind, in 1942 the Forest Service organized the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program with the help of the Wartime Advertising Council. The Wartime Advertising Council was composed of people experienced in the business of advertising who donated their talent to the U.S. Government to get important messages to the people.

Posters and slogans were created through the Wartime Advertising Council, including "Forest Fires Aid the Enemy," and "Our Carelessness, Their Secret Weapon." By using catchy phrases, colorful posters and other fire prevention messages, the CFFP Program encouraged people to prevent accidental fires and help with the War.

Walt Disney's motion picture, "Bambi", was produced in 1944 and Disney authorized the CFFP Program to use his creation on a poster. The Bambi poster was a success and proved that using an animal as a fire prevention symbol would work. Bambi could not be used in subsequent campaigns because it was on loan from Walt Disney studios for only one year. The Forest Service needed to find an animal that would belong exclusively to the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program. It was finally decided that the Nation's fire prevention symbol should be a bear.

On August 9, 1944, the new fire prevention symbol was agreed upon by the Forest Service and the Wartime Advertising Council. Artist Albert Staehle was asked to paint the first poster of Smokey Bear. It showed a bear pouring a bucket of water on a campfire. Smokey Bear soon became very popular and his image began appearing on fire prevention materials.

"Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires" was first used as a slogan in 1947. Jackson Weaver, a noted radio personality of Washington, D.C. provided the original "Voice" of Smokey Bear. One spring day in 1950 in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico, an observer in one of the fire towers spotted smoke and called the location into the nearest Ranger Station. The first crew to arrive discovered a major fire being swept along by strong winds. Word spread rapidly and more crews were called to help. Forest Rangers, Army Soldiers, New Mexico State Game and Fish Department employees and civilian volunteers worked together to control the raging fire. During one of the lulls in the fire fighting, there was a report of a lonely cub seen wandering near the fireline.

The little cub had been caught in the path of the fire. He had taken refuge in a tree that was now nothing but a charred, smoking snag. His climb had saved his life but left him badly burned on the paws and hind legs. The firefighters removed the little bear cub from the burned tree and a rancher, who had been helping the firefighters, agreed to take the cub home. The cub needed veterinary aid and was flown to Santa Fe where the burns were treated and bandaged. The news about the little bear spread swiftly throughout New Mexico. Soon the United Press and

Associated Press picked up the story and broadcast it nationwide. Many people inquired about the little bear's progress. The State Game Warden wrote an official letter to the Chief of the Forest Service, offering to present the cub to the agency with the understanding that the small bear would be dedicated to a publicity program for fire prevention and wildlife conservation. The go-ahead was given to send the bear cub to Washington, D.C. Once there, he found a home at the National Zoo and became the living symbol of Smokey Bear. Smokey died in 1976 and was returned to Capitan, New Mexico, where he is buried in the State Historical Park. In November 1951, the first Smokey Bear costume was fabricated by Wass of Philadelphia for the Virginia Division of Forestry. Its success prompted the US Exhibit Service to make additional costumes. Today Smokey Bear costumes are only made by licensed contractors and are only sold to Federal and State fire-fighting agencies. Any other sales must be approved in writing.

By 1952, the Smokey Bear symbol was sufficiently established to attract commercial interest. Legislation was passed, PL 82-359, to take Smokey out of public domain and place him under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture. An amendment to that Act, PL 93- 318, passed in 1974, enabled commercial licensing and directed that fees and royalties be used to promote forest fire prevention. Hundreds of items have been licensed under this authority over the years. The Junior Forest Ranger program was also started in 1952. This activity encouraged children throughout the Nation to write to Smokey Bear expressing their interest in fire prevention. In reply they would receive a Junior Forest Ranger Kit and other fire prevention materials. By 1965, the volume of mail for this activity was so high that Smokey Bear received his own Zip Code. The program has been recently redesigned to keep pace with state-of-the-art educational techniques. The CFFP Program rode through the 1970's and into the 1980's with lessened momentum. Smokey's early years had been easy because it was a simpler time when his familiar message was one of the few being pushed. However, intense competition, global markets and rapid technological changes emerged, and Smokey found it difficult to compete for a share of the public's attention.

In 1984, Smokey's 40th Birthday was celebrated, and the first day issue of his postage stamp took place in Capitan, New Mexico. In 1987, Smokey Sports was launched as a new component of the

CFFP Program. "National Smokey Bear Day" was conducted with all major league baseball teams in the United States and Canada. The decade of the 90's opened the door for Smokey's revitalization and revival by celebrating his 50th birthday with a nationwide celebration engaging in high visibility activities and events. Smokey's message of "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires" was changed to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" in 2001. The term wildfire applies to any uncontrolled outdoor fire. The new tagline was created by The Advertising Council, along with the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), in response to the recent and rampant outbreak of wildfires, and in an effort to make Smokey's message of forest conservation more contemporary.

In 2004, Smokey celebrated his 60th Birthday with a special logo incorporating the line "60 Years of Vigilance." At a high-profile ceremony in Universal City, CA, Smokey blew out his candles while children of wildland fire fighters sang *Happy Birthday* to him. At the celebration Smokey Bear was presented with a giant Hallmark© Birthday card, a birthday cake and a personalized giftwrapped shovel.

To renew the important message of wildfire prevention to Americans, Smokey enlisted the help of Bambi in 2004. Smokey has an experienced partner in Bambi, who was actually the first face of the forest fire prevention message in 1942. DraftFCB, Southern California, who has worked on the campaign since the beginning, featured Bambi on posters to remind us to be careful with our forests. TV Public Service Announcements (PSAs) featuring Bambi were created, and asked us all to "*Don't Let Our Forests Become Once Upon a Time.*" Has all this effort to prevent wildfires had an effect? During the 1930's, the average annual number of wildfires was 167,277. During the 1950's, the average yearly number of wildfires was down to 125,948. During the 1990's the number was 106,306. Now this number does include lightning started wildfires, but the trend is definitely going down.

From 2001 through 2008, almost 65,000 wildfires occurred each year from human carelessness and those fires burned an average of 2,560,000 acres each year. We still have a lot of work to do. Children need to hear and learn about Smokey Bear and his wildfire prevention message, and adults need to be continually reminded of the need to prevent wildfires. **"Remember, Only YOU Can Prevent Wildfires!"**

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," represents the final year of our three-year effort to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety.

Why focus on smoke alarms three years in a row? Because NFPA's survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.



As a result of those and related findings, we're addressing smoke alarm replacement this year with a focus on these key messages:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

Vermont law requires replacement smoke alarms be photoelectric only type smoke alarms.

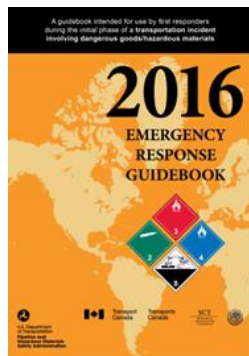
Here are some additional smoke alarm recommendations and guidelines:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms each month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound the smoke alarms make, and that everyone understands what to do when they hear them.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

Please share this potentially life-saving information about smoke alarms with Your Town residents, and help make our communities that much safer from home fires.

To learn more about smoke alarms and this year's "Don't Wait-Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org, www.sparky.org/fpw and www.firesafety.vermont.gov.

2016 Emergency Response Guidebooks (ERG)



The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) 2016 Emergency Response Guidebook provides first responders with a go-to manual to help deal with hazmat transportation accidents during the critical first 30 minutes.

DOT's goal is to place an ERG in every public emergency service vehicle nationwide. However, PHMSA received more requests than funding could fulfill. Therefore, all requests had to be reduced by 24%. Vermont will receive 13,241 English, 216 Spanish copies in May.

We are currently coordinating the distribution of the guidebooks, once we receive our shipment they will be distributed to the emergency response community through Vermont's Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), Vermont Fire Academy courses, emergency services associations and the Vermont State Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Team.

Responders may also send an email request to [State ERG Coordinators](mailto:StateERGCoordinators@phmsa.dot.gov) if they don't receive copies for their department. If you are not a public responder, Members of the public may purchase a copy of the ERG through the GPO Bookstore and other commercial suppliers.

For additional information please visit <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/outreach-training/erg>



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

www.firesafety.vermont.gov

CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

May 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Date	Event	Location
10	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
18	Division Training	BERLIN
23	Access Board	BERLIN
30	Memorial Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL

June 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Camping season is near

Stay safe this summer



Date	Event	Location
7	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
14	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
15	Division Training	BERLIN
27	Access Board Meeting	ALL



Sparky the Fire Dog® says:
"Thanks for a great 2015 Fire Prevention Week!"

Fire Prevention Week 2016 will be observed October 9-15.



State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

MAY 2016

1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600

Barre, VT 05641-2351

FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

*To be added to the monthly newsletter email
mailing list contact the Central Office
(802) 479-7561*

**REMEMBER Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon
Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

Vermont Department of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

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Toll Free (800) 640-2106

HAZMAT Response Team

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Toll Free (800) 641-5005

Vermont Fire Academy

93 Davison Drive
Pittsford, VT 05763
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Toll Free (800) 615-3473

Regional Offices:

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Williston, VT 05495-2080
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Toll Free (800) 366-8325

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Toll Free (888) 370-4834

Springfield

100 Mineral Street— Suite 307
Springfield VT 05156-3168
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DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION

Waterbury—45 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-1300— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371